Categorisation of Indian coal reserves

713. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the scientific basis of categorisation of Indian coal reserves as inferior coal, when we have vast resources of good quality coal;

(b) whether it is a fact that coal quality deteriorates in open cast mining of nationalised coal sector because of the wrong method of mining in which parting band are not eliminated by adoption of easy process whereas all over the world parting bands are eliminated; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the underground sectional mining is not being done because it is comparatively difficult method of mining and even the coal sector produces inferior variety of coal by adopting wrong mining method in underground coal mine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Indian non-coking coals are categrorised in grades A to G based on the useful heat value which depends upon ash and moisture content of coal. Coking coals are categrorised on the ash percentage in coal. According to Geological Survey of India (GSI) estimated D.E.F & G grades are over 52% of the proved and indicated reserves of non-coking coal in the country.

(b) In mechanised opencast mining, the mine plan generally provides for separation of bands which are thick enough to be extracted separately depending on the bucket size of the machine, thickness of the band. thickness of the coal seam and other related geo-mining parameters. In large scale operations in opencast mining bands which are erratic, thin and inconsistent get excavated alongwith coal.

(c) Sectional mining in underground mines which was being practised in pre-nationalisation days was mainly for selective exploitation of superior quality coal for better profitability. This practice was not conducive to conservation of coal resources.

Coal left over in the mines through selective process also leads to underground fires and other associated hazards. Therefore, while deciding upon a mining method all the related geo-mining conditions, techno-economic parameters, conservation and safety aspects are taken into account and based on technical feasibility efforts are always made to extract maximum thickness of a given seam.

Dankuni coal complex

714. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 3490 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd August. 1994 and state:

(a) whether the product range not include apart from coal, gas and coke by-products like ammonium sulphate, tar chemicals and pure phenol cresols, xylerols etc.;

(b) whether the tar processing plant has been fully commissioned and if so, the details of the products and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether ammonia removal section is in use and if so, the reasons for non-production of ammonium sulphate from this plant;

(d) the basis on which the damage Ministry had denied to the two batterie

(e) whether the retorts not constitute a part of the battery; and

(f) if so, whether it is a fact that in a report to the Director (Technical) of Coal India Limited in March, 1994